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BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1952.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Medical Officer of Health:-

DR. A. BARLOW, M.B., Ch.B.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

BRIERFIELD.

June, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members,
BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular No. 2/53, an Interim Report only, on the lines of the 1951 Report is presented for this year. It includes only essential or urgent matters, which have affected public health during the year. All records and statistics are being preserved so that the annual records may, as far as practicable, be continous and complete.

I have pleasure, therefore, in submitting for your consideration the following interim report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Public Health Administration in the Urban District of Brierfield for the year ended December 31st. 1952.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1952, according to the Rate Book, was 2517, the Rateable Value being £43,940. and the sum represented by a penny rate being £180.

The social conditions were good, but there was some overcrowding, and the area experienced a short period of unemployment during the year. The chief industry is Cotton Weaving, with a small amount of Spinning and Dyeing.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION: The population, as estimated by the Registrar General for mid-1952, is 6961.

BIRTHS: 90 live births belonging to the District occurred during 1952, as follows:-

		Male	Female	Total
Live Births	(Legitimate	47	41	88
	(Illegitimate	1	1	2
		48	42	90
Still Births	(Legitimate	3	1	4
	(Illegitimate	1	1	2
		4	2	6

Comparative particulars with regard to Live Births over the last five years are given in the following table:-

	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Total Live Births	90	94	90	104	107
Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population:	12.9	14.7	12.6	14.8	15.5

INFANTILE MORTALITY:

(a) All Infants per 1000 live births 22

(b) Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births 22

(c) Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births .... Nil.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY	(a) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:	1
	(b) Mortality Rate per 1000 live births:	11
MATERNAL MORTALITY	(a) Deaths from Childbirth, Pregnancy and Abortion:	Nil.
	(b) Mortality Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births:	Nil.

DEATHS

90 deaths belonging to the District occurred during 1952, as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths within the Urban District:	34	31	65
Deaths outside the District (in hospitals, institutions, etc.)	5	20	25
	39	51	90

Comparative particulars with regard to deaths over the last five years are given in the following table:-

	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Total Deaths	90	130	104	98	89
Death Rate per 1000 estimated population	13.1	18.3	14.6	13.9	12.8

The following table gives the ages at which death occurred, also the causes of all deaths belonging to Brierfield during 1952:

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-65	65 & over	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	4	-	4
Cancer	-	-	-	-	3	7	10
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	-	-	-	-	1	10	11
Coronary Disease	-	-	-	-	3	7	10
Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	3	19	22
Circulatory Diseases	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	1	6	7
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of the Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Senile Decay	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
Cirrhosis of the Liver	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Premature Birth	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hodgkin's Disease	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Paralytic Ileus	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cerebral Tumour	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Accident	-	-	2	-	3	1	6
	2	-	2	-	23	63	90

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1952.

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(2 1)		(- -)		(2 2)		(- -)	
	(3)		(-)		(4)		(-)	

Cases on Register at the 31st December, 1952.

On the Register at the end of December, 1952, there were thirty-six cases of Tuberculosis (24 Pulmonary, 12 Non-Pulmonary) as follows:-

	Under 1 year.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Over 65	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	1	7	6	4	3	2	1	24
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis:										
Spine	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cervical Glands	-	-	3	1	-	2	-	-	-	6
Testis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Abdomen	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rt. Knee Joint	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Both Legs	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Peritoneum	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	-	-	7	8	7	6	4	3	1	36

As all these cases are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Officer, we have no direct information about the number of cases receiving allowances.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The nearest clinic is at Burnley, and any cases discovered are advised to attend this clinic.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

There are no social workers in this area, but the Burnley and District House of Help does good work in this direction.

LABORATORY WORK

This work is carried out at the Pathological Laboratory, Salus Street, Burnley. During the year one specimen of pressed beef was examined. The result of the examination was "no pathogenic organisms".

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

	Per 1000 Estimated Population	
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate
Mean of 5 years 1947-51	15.4	14.9
Year 1951	14.7	18.3
Year 1952	12.9	13.1
Increase or decrease in 1952 on 5 years' average 1947-51	— 2.5	— 1.8
Previous year	— 0.7	— 3.4

	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 Live Births	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 Live and Still Births,	Rate of Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1000 live births.
Mean of 5 years 1947-1951	-	-	24.9
Year 1951	-	-	10.0
Year 1952	-	-	22.0
Increase or decrease in 1952 on 5 years' average 1947-51	-	-	—2.9
Previous year	-	-	+12.0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Disease	Total cases at all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-65	65 & over	Total cases Rem'd. to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the District
Dysentery	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	14	1	4	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	15	3	5	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	12	-	2	2	6	1	1	-	-	3	-
Pneumonia	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	50	5	15	10	13	3	1	1	2	4	-

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Public Health Officers:- W.D. Haigh, M.I.M.E., M.R.S.I., F.I.A.S., SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

B. Duerden, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Water Supplies:- Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply of water from the mains of Nelson Corporation, and there were no new sources of supply during the year. The water is of good quality and in good supply, apart from a few houses in the Marsden Heights area, where the supply is intermittent, and a few houses in various streets where, probably, the joint service pipes are too small. With only three exceptions$^{\emptyset}$ all the houses in the district are supplied direct from public mains. Some of the defective joint service pipes were replaced during the year.

Water Sampling:

(a) Public Supply — No. of Bacteriological Examinations - 3
Result - Satisfactory.

(b) Private Supply — No. of Bacteriological Examinations - 6
Result - 3 samples unsatisfactory.

No. of Chemical Analysis - 1
Result - Fairly Satisfactory.

Action taken in respect of contaminated private Supplies: $^{\emptyset}$Work in progress laying services from Public Mains to two houses. The well has been cleaned out, rebuilt, and covered over at the remaining house.

Supplies to Houses: No. of dwellings supplied direct from Public Mains: 2514.

Sewage Disposal: No extensions were made to sewers or sewage works during the year.

Closet Accommodation: There are (a) 8 pail closets in the district at isolated cottages and farms;
(b) 1802 waste water closets; &
(c) 1052 (approximately) fresh water closets.

Fifteen waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets during the year by private owners.

Scavenging: This was carried out by direct labour with a two ton "BEDFORD" tipping waggon. Domestic refuse was collected weekly free of charge from private houses, shops and mills, and disposed of by controlled tipping on the Council's tip.

Salvage Work:

Salvage Work has been maintained and the following amounts of materials were salvaged during the year:

Weights T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	Material	Amount Realized £.	s.	d.
101	14	-	-	Waste Paper	1112	15	7.
17	4	2	-	Kitchen Waste	64	10	0.
	1	1	17	Aluminium	5	4	8.
12	8	-	-	Scrap Metal	28	12	4
2	14	1	-	Rags	54	7	8
134	2	0	17		£1265	10	3

For comparison purposes the statistics relating to the last five years are set out as follows:-

Year	Weight of Salvage T.	C.	Q.	Total Revenue £.	s.	d.
1948	284	9	3	1170	17	5
1949	256	7	2	1159	-	5
1950	260	4	1	1132	2	4
1951	205	13	-	2059	15	6

Sanitary Inspections during 1952 (including housing):

(a) Premises Visited:		1715
(b) Nuisances Discovered:		308
(c) Notices -	(i) Preliminary	109
	(ii) Statutory	22
(d) Remedied:		449

Disinfestation:

There were no houses discovered or reported during the year that required disinfestation. When this is required, it is by means of "Vermicence" and "Cescones" poison gas, carried out by the Local Authority, at the expense of the owner or occupier.

HOUSING

Conditions:

The majority of the houses are in rows, stone built, and from 30 to 70 years old. The later types are brick built and are usually semi-detached. Many are owner/occupier, and well maintained.

Statistics:

16 traditional permanent houses were erected for the local authority during the year, and one house was erected privately. Two permanent houses of the three bedroom type on William Street estate, and a block of ten flats on the Church Street Site, were in hand at the 31st December, 1952. It is proposed to build 29 houses of the two bedroom type in six blocks on the Parson Clough Estate during 1953.

Overcrowding:

16 new cases of overcrowding occurred during the year, and at the end of the year 29 houses were known to be overcrowded. This affected 46 families or 168 persons. 20 cases of overcrowding affecting 85 persons were relieved during the year.

Houses Required to alleviate overcrowding: The main shortage is for the two bedroom type of house, and at the end of the year it was estimated that to meet overcrowding alone 10 three bedroom, 30 two bedroom and 40 one-bedroom type houses are required. Houses are also required for newly married couples and bungalows for old people who are not living with their children. There are over 150 houses in the district (excluding old peoples bungalows) now occupied by only one person, many of them being owner/occupier.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Dairies & Milkshops: The milk supply is plentiful, and is distributed throughout the District directly by farmers and dairymen in the vicinity.

Milk Sampling:

Type of Test	No. of Samples	Results
Biological	12	All negative.
Methylene Blue	12	Eleven satisfactory. One unsatisfactory.

Results of Ministry investigations within the District during the year (arising from notifications by the Local Authority) were as follows:-

No. of Veterinary Inspections:	2
No. of Cases where animals were seized under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938:	-
No. of animals seized:	-
No. of cases reported negative where animal had been sold prior to investigation:	1

Food Premises: Routine periodical inspections of all premises where food is prepared or sold have been carried out, and the premises generally have been found to be in fair order.

Ice-Cream Sampling: Ten samples of ice-cream were taken from manufacturers and retailers throughout the year for bacteriological examination. All ten samples proved to be satisfactory.

Food Poisoning: There were no cases of food poisoning reported during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of Infectious Diseases were visited upon receipt of notification and, where patients are not transferred to Isolation Hospital, they are isolated at home in one room of the house. During the year, the following cases were notified:-

Measles: 14 cases. These were of a mild type, and there were no deaths.

Whooping Cough: 15 cases.

Erysipelas: 1 case. This was removed to hospital.

Opthalmia Neonatorum: 1 case.

Scarlet Fever: 12 cases, 3 of whom were removed to hospital.

Dysentery: 4 cases. Each of these cases were investigated by the Department,

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	No. of Registered	Inspections	Written Notices.
(i) Factories on which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority:	3	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	57	59	7
	65	60	7

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

No. of Factory Chimneys in the District	5
No. of Observations taken during the year	23
Smoke Nuisances discovered	Nil.

There are no Byelaws in operation in the District relating to the time allowed for emission of black smoke, but all the boiler houses have been visited during the working period, and the plant and equipment appeared to be in good working order.

RODENT CONTROL

	Local Authority Property.	Type of Property: Dwelling Houses	Agriculture	Others (incl. Business and Industrial.
No. of infested properties treated by the Local Authority:	4	23	11	7

Treatment of the Council's sewerage systme is carried out at six-monthly intervals.

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